

The Examiner is also respectfully requested to return a copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A filed on October 24, 2001 and to indicate thereon that the cited publications were considered and made of record.

Restriction was required under 35 USC 121 as follows:

- Group I. Claims 1 to 6 and 10 to 28, directed to
 an apparatus; and
- Group II. Claims 7 to 9 and 29 to 31, directed to
 a method.

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1 to 6 and 10 to 28).

It was further required that a single disclosed species be elected for the reasons set forth in the Office Action on page 3, second paragraph.

The Office Action set forth the following three species:

- (1) apparatus and method for cooling without tension,
finishing and coiling (claims 1 to 6 and 7 to 9);
- (2) apparatus and method for cooling without rapid water
removal from surface (claims 10 to 19); and

- (3) apparatus and method for cooling with top end of strip moving smoothly from final finishing mill to coiler (claims 20 to 29);

Claims 30 and 31 were stated to be linking claims for all of species (1) to (3).


Applicants elect species (2).

With respect to the last full sentence on page 3 of the Office Action, upon allowance of a generic claim, it is requested that the procedure set forth in 37 CFR 1.141 (as well as in MPEP 806.04(d)) be followed.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

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Respectfully submitted,


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